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V CORPS SAYS GOODBYE, HELLO TO DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERALS

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HEIDELBERG, Germany -- V Corps and U.S. Army Europe Soldiers, leaders and others gathered at Campbell Barracks here today to honor the outgoing and incoming corps deputy commanding generals.

During the ceremony, the corps and USAREUR community said farewell to Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, and simultaneously welcomed Brig. Gen. (P) Daniel A. Hahn.



Hahn, a 1973 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., takes on the job of the corps' second-in-command after serving on

the Army staff as deputy force developer in the Army resource management division. However, the general is no stranger to the corps. Prior to his tour on the Army staff, Hahn served as V Corps chief of staff when the corps commanded the spring 2003

STAFF SGT MANUEL TORRES-CORTES
Outgoing V Corps Deputy Commanding General Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski (left), V Corps Commanding General Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez (center) and incoming corps Deputy Commanding General Brig. Gen. (P) Daniel Hahn wait to march into the ceremony during which Wojdakowski was bid farewell and Hahn was welcomed.

attack and combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and for several months thereafter.

Hahn's previous assignments in the corps also include serving as commander of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Field Artillery in Bamberg, Germany, during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; as V Corps Artillery commander; as division plans officer in the 1st Armored Division, and as the corps deputy chief of staff for operations. In addition, he has served as assistant deputy director for combating terrorism in the operations directorate of the joint staff in the Pentagon; as executive officer to the commander of U.S. Army Forces Command; as assistant professor of military science at Washington University, and as senior fire support observer-controller at the Combat Maneuver Training Center.

In his remarks at today's ceremony, V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, called Hahn "a warfighter who has been tested and proven himself in combat."

"There is no better-qualified general officer for this task," Sanchez said.

Hahn's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with four oak leaf clusters; the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster; the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters; the Army Achievement Medal; the Kosovo Campaign Medal; the Kosovo NATO Medal; the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal; the Joint Staff Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

During the ceremony, Hahn thanked the Wojdakowskis for their leadership and dedication to the corps. "This will be truly difficult act to follow, and I take this

responsibility very seriously, and hope to maintain the high standards that both of you have set for the corps," he said.

He also vowed to remain loyal to V Corps' people.

"I promise you I will provide the dedication and leadership that our great Soldiers and families deserve," said Hahn. "I will never lose sight of the most important thing that leaders have to do, and that is taking care of Soldiers and leading them to accomplish the mission."

Wojdakowski said farewell V Corps after a two-and-a-half year tour as deputy commander that he called "a remarkable period of challenges."

"Fighting, redeploying, reintegrating, rebuilding, resetting and deploying again -- with unbelievable success," said Wojdakowski. "These great leaders assembled here are representatives of the 42,000 outstanding Soldiers who, without question, have done their part for the global war on terrorism for this country."

Calling Wojdakowski "unquestionably ... one of the Army's premier general officers and warriors," Sanchez lauded his contributions to the corps and the Army.

"His tour of duty has been nothing short of spectacular," Sanchez said. "The corps' unsurpassed performance in battle against the Iraqi army will be immortalized in the annals of military history, largely (because) of his tremendous leadership, his vision, and dedicated service as a corps senior logistician and deputy commander."



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In another, earlier, ceremony at the corps headquarters, Candy Wojdakowski was also honored, for her leadership in corps family readiness support. That support included involvement in family readiness groups; the Army Family Action Plan; Army Women's Activities Germany, and the V Corps Family Readiness Advisory Council.

"She was critical in putting together the senior advisory council, volunteering endlessly for the last two-and-a-half years," said Sanchez. "I can't thank her enough for helping family readiness group leaders, Soldiers' families, the corps, the Army, and me."

For her service, Mrs. Wodjakowski was awarded an Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, a corps Heart of Victory Award, and a commander's coin for excellence.

